

007 AND ALL THAT

STATINTL

Spies Must Advertise

SPIES are usually thought of as shy, retiring creatures. Their dislike of publicity is an unavoidable condition of their profession. Or so it appeared until recently. But we have changed all that. This week the Russian agent Conon Molody, who operated in Britain under the name of Gordon Lonsdale, is publishing his memoirs, taking the occasion to deal many a shrewd blow at the immorality of life in capitalist America and the slackness of the British security services. The answer to this blast against the monstrous regiment of capitalism is apparently to be the Penkovsky papers now being rushed into print in America and Britain. Oleg Penkovsky, who was shot by the Russians in 1963 for spying for the West, left behind him revelations about the higher circles of Soviet officialdom which are confidently expected to shiver quite a few timbers in Moscow when they appear.

Perhaps this competition in psychological warfare is why counter-espionage literary activity has been stepped up in eastern Europe. Mr Boris Belitsky, an English-language Moscow-radio commentator, has solved the great train robbery single-handed. It was the needy British secret service of course. And in Bulgaria Mr Andrei Gulyashki (obviously a goulash communist) has taken the bold step of turning the enemy's weapons against them. In his novel "From Russia—with Bond" he represents the downfall of 007 at the hands of that young, upstanding KGB agent Avvakum Zakhov. The great game is now being fought to a finish in publishers' offices. For Britain there is comfort in this. On our own chosen ground of thriller-writing we shall have no difficulty in holding the hosts of agit-prop at bay.

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